



## Pulse Standards 2019/20 Season

### 1. Background

The Pulse Standards Committee (Committee) met during 2019 to consider Pulse Standards (Standards) to be adopted in 2019/20. During the development of the Standards, comments from industry were sought on changes required to the Standards. All industry submissions received were considered by the Committee and used to develop the Standards for 2019/20, for application and use by industry as of 1 August 2019.

### 2. Agreed Changes for Adoption in the 2019/20 Season

The following changes were adopted in the 2019/20 Standards.

#### 2.1 Agreed Change: Visual Recognition Standards Guide (VRSG)

Existing sections for pulses (desi chickpeas, kabuli chickpeas, *Angustifolius* lupins, faba beans, field peas and red lentils) in the existing Grain Trade Australia Visual Recognition Standards Guide (VRSG) located on the GTA website at <http://www.graintrade.org.au/fact-sheets-publications> have been reviewed and altered where required to improve clarity. This includes the following general changes:

- Revision of photos and adding new photos deemed necessary for clarity.
- Revision to definitions for clarity.
- Removal of the cause of the defect in the Terminology and definition, as commenced for prior season Standards.
- Re-formatting of wording and photos.
- Commodities are now listed in alphabetical order and numbering of each commodity removed as it was not needed.
- Removed all references to the Pulse Australia Visual Quality Charts as these no longer apply and industry should refer to the GTA VRSG.
- Revision to all wording to clarify that defects such as Stained / Weather Damaged (and all other defects causing a colour change on the Seed Coat / Kernel such as Fungal Affected) are included in Poor Colour. Those changes reflect current industry interpretation.

Specific changes by commodity are listed below:

Commodity	Standards Issue	Agreed Outcome
Chickpeas, Desi	Broken / Chipped / Loose Seed Coat / Split	As the split in the previous Split grain was too dark to clearly identify, this photo has been altered.
Chickpeas, Desi	Frost Damaged, Shrivelled and Wrinkled	A photo of fused seeds has been added as this defect is included under this category.
Chickpeas, Desi	Poor Colour Kernel	The photos have been revised to indicate this defect more clearly.

Commodity	Standards Issue	Agreed Outcome
Chickpeas, Desi	Fungal Affected	The wording has been simplified and an example (e.g., Ascochyta) added as this is the most common defect present in this quality parameter.
Chickpeas, Desi	Tiger Striping/Speckling	The wording has been clarified that any level is acceptable provided the kernel is not affected.
Chickpeas, kabuli	Mouldy & Caked	Wording has been simplified for greater clarity.
Chickpeas, kabuli	Poor Colour	The wording has been revised to “Seed coats may vary from dark brown to black but may be depicted by other colours. Includes Stained and Weather Damaged” to reflect grains that are not necessarily always dark brown to black.
Faba Beans	Fungal Affected	The wording has been simplified and an example (e.g., Ascochyta) added as this is the most common defect present in this quality parameter.
Faba Beans	Mouldy and Caked	Wording has been simplified for greater clarity. Added a picture of a grain impacted by Pod Fluff to distinguish it from Mouldy and Caked.
Faba Beans	Poor Colour Green faba bean	Included a picture of Poor Colour Green faba bean on the seed coat.
Faba Beans	Sprouted	Changed the picture to a side sprouted grain. Revised the definition to clarify that if a split is present but not yet Sprouted the grain should be included in the definition / photo for Broken, Chipped, Loose Seed Coat and Split.
Field Peas	Bin Burnt / Heat Damaged	The photo has been replaced for greater clarity.
Field Peas	Front Page	For reference, added photos of a White pea and a Blue pea.
Field Peas	Insect Damaged	Included a photo of a field insect damaged grain.
Field Peas	Mouldy and Caked	Wording has been simplified for greater clarity. A new photo has been added to depict the minimum required for a grain to be classified under this quality parameter.
Field Peas	Poor Colour dark field pea on Seed Coat	Included a picture of dark field pea in Poor Colour (i.e., old field pea) as this type of grain was previously not included in the VRSG but was classified under Poor Colour.
Green Lentil	Clarify green lentils in red lentils	On the front page of the Red Lentil section included wording that Green Lentils are a contaminant in Red Lentils.
Lupins, Angustifolius	Bitter Dark	Replaced the photo to better depict this quality parameter.
Lupins, Angustifolius	Mouldy & Caked	Wording has been simplified for greater clarity.
Lupins, Angustifolius	Poor Colour	Removed the word “White” from the description and added the wording “yellow or tan” to reflect the Standards definition.
Lupins, Angustifolius	Split Seed Coat	Added a side-on photo of a Broken and Split kernel to aid interpretation.
Pulses - all	Stained and/or Weather Damaged, Green.	For all pulses the wording in the VRSG for each pulse has been clarified that Stained and/or Weather Damaged and Green is included in Poor Colour. Where possible, photos of these defects have been moved to place them in adjacent areas and on a single page for ease of review. Wording has been clarified to remove any reference to percentage depiction and that the

Commodity	Standards Issue	Agreed Outcome
		photos depict the minimum Staining to be classified as defective.
Red Lentil	Fungal Affected	The wording has been simplified and an example (e.g., Ascochyta) added as this is the most common defect present in this quality parameter.
Red Lentils	Mouldy & Caked	Wording has been simplified for greater clarity.
Red Lentils	Poor Colour	Have clarified the wording to include that Poor Colour “may be depicted by other colours”.

## 2.2 Agreed Change: Minor wording updates

- Links to various Australia Government websites for use by industry in reference to maximum residue limits for chemicals and market quarantine requirements have been updated where necessary.
- References to the Department of Agriculture have been updated based on a recent change to their name.
- Updates references to the latest version of the GTA VRSG, released 1 August 2019.
- Clarified that Caps “Are any parts of the Seed Coat adhering to Split or Broken seed” as the previous definition was unclear on the amount of Seed Coat material adhering.
- Added a definition for Broken & Kibbled.
- Clarified the definition of nil live Stored Grain Insects applies to all life stages.
- Clarified in the Procedures that instruments of magnification may be used to aid the assessment of pulses for Contaminants and Defective Grains.
- Clarified that Carrot Weed (*Daucus carota*) is included in Type 7b weed seeds.
- Clarified that in Type 7b, the reference to Turnip Weed is in reference to Turnip Weed Pods (irrespective of size).

## 2.3 Agreed Clarification: Tiger Striping - Desi Chickpeas

The VRSG for Desi Chickpeas was previously not clear on the interpretation of Tiger Striping.

For clarity, the Definition in the Standards and the wording in the VRSG has been altered to the following:

“In relation to Desi Chickpeas, Tiger Striping may appear as dark coloured lines of striping, or sometimes extending down the seed coat as a mass of colour. Tiger Striping is not considered a defect when it appears to any extent on the Seed Coat. If Tiger Striping is on the Kernel, it is considered a defect. Refer to the GTA Visual Recognition Standards Guide.”

## 2.4 Agreed Clarification: Speckling - Desi Chickpeas

The VRSG for Desi Chickpeas was previously not clear on the interpretation of Speckling.

For clarity, the Definition in the Standards and the wording in the VRSG has been altered to the following:

“In relation to Desi Chickpeas, Speckling may appear as a few to many small spots of varying colours. Speckling is not considered a defect when it appears to any extent on the Seed Coat. If Speckling is on the Kernel, it is considered a defect. Refer to the GTA Visual Recognition Standards Guide.”

## 2.5 Agreed Change: Total Defective - Canning Grade Faba Beans

In 2018 the Committee received a submission from industry seeking a change to the Total Defective tolerance in CSP 5.1.2 Faba Beans - Canning Grade Minimum Export Standard Machine Dressed. The

submission indicated that the tolerance of Total Defectives of 1.5% by weight is extremely difficult to achieve. The submission requested an increased tolerance to 3% by weight.

Industry views on this potential change were sought during development of the 2018/19 Standards. As no negative comments were received from industry, the Committee agreed to a change in tolerance to these Standards for Total Defectives from 1.5% to 3.0%. However given this change was considered relatively significant and there may have been contractual issues with a change for that season, it was agreed the change would occur in the 2019/20 season.

That change has now been adopted.

## 2.6 Agreed Change: Defective - Broad Beans

In addition to minor wording changes made in 2018/19 for Standard CSP 2.2 Broad Beans No.1 Split Minimum Export Standard, clarified in the definition for Defective that Whole broad beans with a missing seed coat are included, as this reference to "Whole" was previously unclear in the definition.

## 3. Rejected Changes in the 2019/20 Season

Following receipt and consideration of industry advice, the Committee has not made the following changes to the Standards for 2019/20.

### 3.1 Rejected Change: Lupin Tolerance - All Pulses

Industry would be aware that Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) have declared that all foods containing lupins are to be labelled, given the potential for lupins to be an allergen. This change only applies where lupins are added to the food as an ingredient, not where lupins are a contaminant (i.e., unintended).

The Committee is aware that some in industry have chosen to list lupins as a possible contaminant, given that the existing maximum tolerance for lupins under Type 7a weed seed is 10 seeds / 200 grams (or 20 seeds / 400 grams for larger commodities).

A submission was received from industry seeking a change in the tolerance for lupins only, to 2 seeds / 200 grams. This change was requested on the basis that for smaller seeded commodities such as desi chickpeas, removal of lupins is difficult prior to / during processing.

The Committee considered this request and sought industry comment on the proposed change. Some industry feedback indicated support for the change. In 2018 the Committee agreed:

- The tolerance for lupin contamination be reduced from 10 seeds/200 grams (Type 7a) to 2 seeds/200 grams (new Type) for all pulses (not just desi chickpeas).
- The change would occur for both *Angustifolius* and *Albus* lupins.
- As the change was a significant reduction, it would occur for the 2019/20 season given the potential impact on stakeholders in the supply chain for a change in the 2018/19 season (i.e., growers, traders etc.).

Since then the Committee has re-considered the prior industry feedback and discussion paper and determined that the tolerances for lupins will not be altered in any pulse Standards. The reasoning being that:

- FSANZ have clearly indicated unintended contamination is not a requirement to label foods.
- Unintended contamination of pulses with lupins is permitted up to the tolerances stated in Standards.
- The Committee noted no change had occurred for any other commodity as a result of the FSANZ decision.

- The proposed change was a significant reduction and was not justified on the basis that the tolerance had applied for many seasons without detrimental effect on the trade (i.e., no loss in market access or reduction in value of the pulse in question).
- Industry is free to list any tighter tolerance for lupin contamination in contracts should this be their commercial requirement.

#### 4. Future Review/Change

The Committee has reviewed a number of issues raised by industry during development of the 2019/20 Standards. The following potential changes may occur for the 2020/21 season or in future seasons. Industry views on any potential changes on these matters will be sought during development of the 2020/21 Standards.

##### 4.1 Future Review: Defective Grain Sub-Categories - Faba Beans

The Committee received a further submission from industry, similar to that received in 2018, requesting a change in the tolerances that apply to CSP 5.2.1 Faba Beans No.1 Receival Standard Farmer Dressed. In summary the request sought removal of the "Other defect" tolerance for this grade.

Industry comments were sought on this proposed change. In addition where this category exists in other commodities, the Committee sought industry views on the potential change occurring in those commodity Standards.

The Committee did not receive any submissions on this issue other than the original submitter. The Committee noted prior submissions received during 2018 on this issue however given the potential impact could not agree on the proposed change for 2019/20. As a consequence the Committee could agree on a change for this season but intends to finalise the review for potential adoption for all commodities in 2020/21.

##### 4.2 Future Review: Nil Tolerance - All Pulses

The Committee has previously advised industry of research being undertaken by GTA on the applicability of a nil tolerance in Standards. In conjunction with GTA the Committee will review various aspects related to this topic including:

- The definition of Nil.
- The applicability of a Nil tolerance to apply for each quality parameter in a bulk grain load.
- Regulatory impacts of any potential change away from Nil.
- Suitable tolerances by quality parameter and commodity to apply.
- The consistency of the definitions and tolerances across commodities.
- The method of assessment, including sample size.

Results of the review are outlined in the GTA Industry discussion Paper on 2019/20 Standards to apply, on the GTA website at [http://www.graintrade.org.au/commodity\\_standards](http://www.graintrade.org.au/commodity_standards). If applicable the Committee intends to review the outcome of that review for applicability in pulse standards and potential adoption in the 2020/21 season.

##### 4.3 Future Review: Truck Sampling - All Pulses

In prior seasons the Committee has been made aware of variations in procedures used by industry for sampling of loads of pulses tendered for delivery. On various occasions the Committee has reviewed the current sampling procedures listed in the Standards (as also applied to a range of cereal and oilseed commodities) and determined that if applied correctly, those procedures are suitable for obtaining a representative sample from each load tendered for delivery.

The Committee was advised in 2018 of occurrences over the 2017/18 harvest where inconsistency in the application of those sampling procedures caused issues with deliveries of pulses. As a consequence the Committee was advised of a potential research project to further review the practicalities of using the documented sampling procedures for pulses, and the implications of varying those procedures.

The Committee is liaising with an industry group on this project and as the project commences and outcomes are known, will communicate with industry as required.

#### 4.4 Future Review: Bleached Grains - Chickpeas, kabuli

A submission was received from industry seeking clarification (and inclusion) of bleached grains in the Total Defective category. While some wording changes have been made to Standards for 2019/20 for greater clarity, the Committee intends to review any changes in the tolerance for 2020/21 and potential inclusion of reference photographs in the VRSG.